



PATENT

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January 22, 2004 T. Miller  
Date Tamra Miller

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant	: Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.:	501082.10 (98-0616.09)
Serial No.	: 09/652,714	Group Art Unit	: 2815
Filed	: August 31, 2000	Examiner	: Jose R. Diaz
		Confirmation No.	: 3982
		Date of Notice of Allowance	: October 22, 2003
Title	: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE		

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Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS**  
**FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue

such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,  
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



Steven H. Arterberry  
Registration No. 46,314

SHA:tlm

Enclosure:  
Postcard

1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3400  
Seattle, Washington 98101-4010  
(206) 903-8800 (telephone)  
(206) 903-8820 (fax)

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